

of the body), and in obtaining sections which plainly showed the penetration of offshoots of the lateral nerves into the pharynx. His most important point is the demonstration of the existence in the connective layer of the pharynx of a large annular ganglion, which exceeds the true cerebral ganglion in size, and this explains the extraordinary mobility and vitality of the pharynx, which almost seems to be an independent creature.

The author further investigated the Cladocera and Copepoda of the district, and also its Hydrachnidæ; among the latter he notices his discovery of a new species of the genus *Sperchon*, Kramer, and of a new *Arrenurus*. He also obtained two new Rotatoria and an undescribed Turbellarian (belonging to the genus *Prorhynchus*).—*Zoologischer Anzeiger*, no. 206, p. 575.

*Note on the Blastodermic Vesicle of Mammals.*

By Prof. A. C. HADDON, M.A., M.R.I.A.

The author suggests the view that in the blastodermic vesicle of mammals at the close of segmentation the inner mass, since it gives rise to the embryo proper, is perfectly comparable with the germinal disk of a fowl during the later stages of segmentation, which has sunk into the blastodermic vesicle owing to the absence of yolk. The outer layer corresponds to those epiblast-cells which are gradually enclosing the yolk, the so-called blastopore of Van Beneden indicating in an exaggerated manner the distinction between the embryonic and non-embryonic germinal layers. Epiblast-cells grow over this "blastopore" and form the covering cells (Deckenzellen); eventually the invagination of the germinal area is rectified, and there is a diploblastic ovum, the covering cells forming the spurious third layer which misled Van Beneden. The segmentation of the ovum is next discussed, and the conclusion is arrived at that the first immigration of blastospheres into the interior of the ovum (Van Beneden's stage 3) indicates the gastrula stage. It would further appear that this immigration was asymmetrical, much as there is an asymmetrical invagination of the hypoblast in telolecithal ova. The extension of cells of the blastodermic vesicle over the embryonic area is probably to be accounted for, in most cases, by the sinking of the latter into the cavity of the former. These "Deckenzellen" are really a portion of the blastodermic vesicle, that is of the yolk-sac, and they form the first adhesion between the ovum and the parent. This is compared with the imperfect attachment of the embryos of marsupials to the uterine wall, which is effected solely by the yolk-sac, as has been recently demonstrated by H. F. Osborn and by Caldwell.—*Proc. Dublin Soc. n. s. iv.* pp. 536–547.

*Note on Halcampa chrysanthellum, Peack.*

By Prof. A. C. HADDON, M.A., M.R.I.A.

In a paper read before the Royal Dublin Society on November 18, 1885, Professor A. C. Haddon withdrew the name applied by him to a species of *Halcampa* from Malahide, co. Dublin (*Proc. R. Dublin Soc. n. s. iv.* p. 396, pl. xvi.). After having examined a number of specimens it was found that this species is an extremely variable one; its synonyms are:—*H. (Xanthiopus) vittata*, Kef.; *H. (X.) bilateralis*, Kef.; *H. Kefersteini*, Andr.; *H. Andresii*, Hadd. A full description and figure were given.